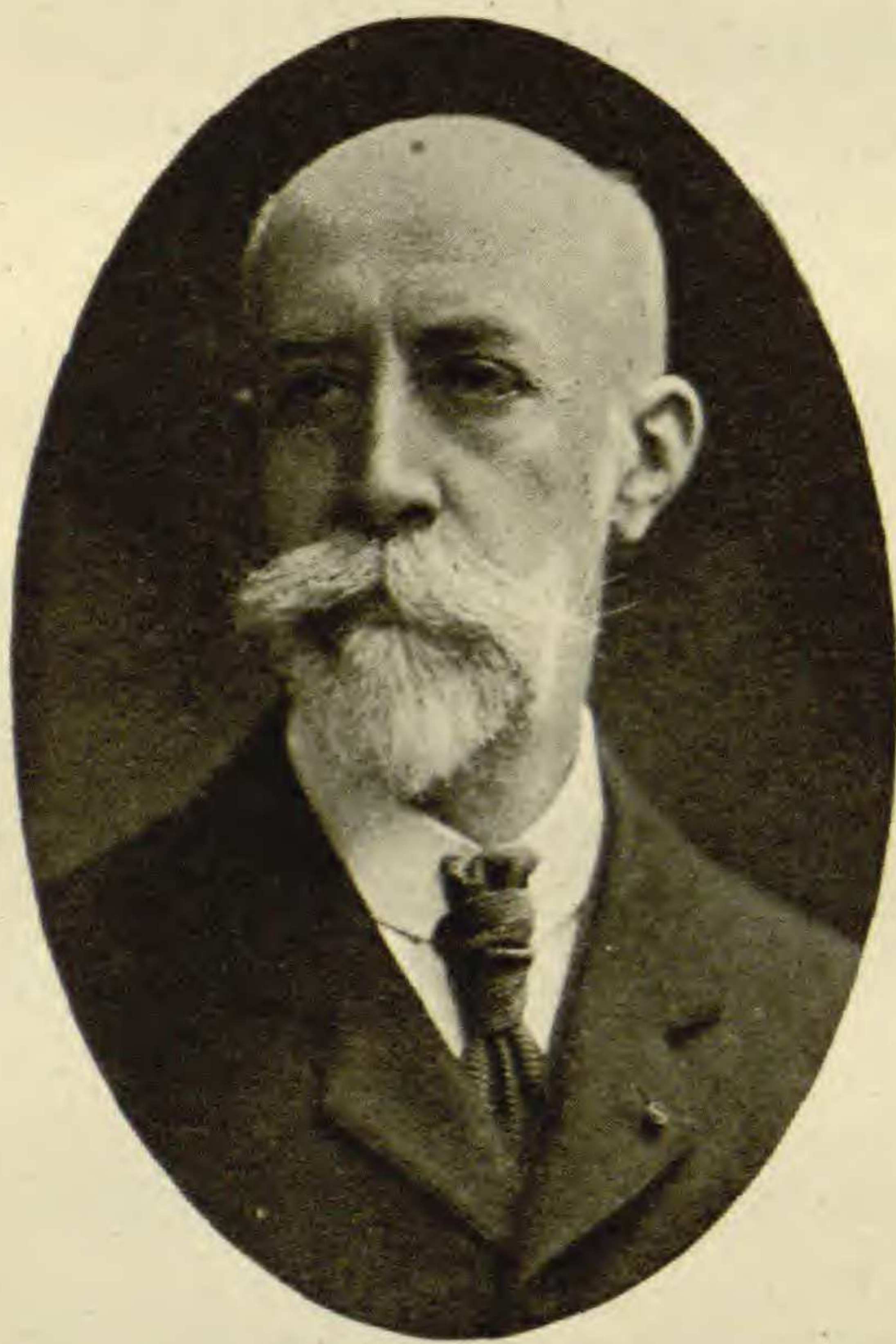


BRIEFER ARTICLES

CHARLES RENÉ ZEILLER

(WITH PORTRAIT)

It is an interesting coincidence that November 1915 should have marked the passing of the most distinguished paleobotanists of the two warring nations, France and Germany. Each was a leader hard or impossible to replace, and each saw the light in the forties of the last



century. To another has fallen the task of recording for American botanists the obituary of Count SOLMS-LAUBACH. The present notice deals with CHARLES RENÉ ZEILLER, a son of the lost province Lorraine. His early activities were as a member of the auxiliary corps of engineers in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. On the scientific side he first busied himself with mineralogy and general geological work. Later he became more and more interested in paleobotany and in this connection is a high exemplification of the logical mind and catholicity of view which are the attributes of the Gallic race. Not only did he study many fossil floras of

diverse geological ages and geographical occurrence and give many new names to science, but he likewise wrote with distinction concerning the climates and phytogeographical areas of the past, as well as of the anatomy and evolutionary history of the types which came under his notice. His stratigraphic accomplishments were of a high order of merit also, in a field where plants have been thought by many to have less value as indicators of geological time.

Under his fostering care the collection at the École des Mines in Paris became the most important and best equipped in Europe, with the possible exception of that presided over by NATHORST in Sweden, claiming the interest of the scientific visitor to Paris rather than that at the Museum in the Jardin des Plantes, which has fallen somewhat into decay since the death of RENAULT. This care for details, accompanied by the much rarer quality of the broad outlook, characterized ZEILLER as they do his nation. For a number of years he performed the laborious task of summarizing the literature and results of paleobotany for the *Revue Générale de Botanique*, and in the writer's opinion no better account of the subject, for the times it covers, has ever been written.

ZEILLER was a delightful correspondent, and his discriminating praise of work done was a strong incentive to a later and less inspired generation to persevere in a science which only now is beginning to claim its proper place. His *Éléments de Paléobotanique*, although professedly only a compendium of the subject, may without exaggeration be characterized as the broadest and best work on the subject yet written. We of the newer continent join with France in paying tribute to one of her distinguished sons "dead on the field of honor."—E. C. JEFFREY, *Harvard University*.